

RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas there are in excess of 15,000 Vietnamese-Americans living in the St. Louis area; and

Whereas the Vietnamese-American community is a vital part of our ethnic fabric contributing to our City work force, entrepreneurial spirit and residential and commercial growth; and

Whereas, those Vietnamese still living in Vietnam are living in a repressive state without the freedoms of speech, press or assembly; and

Whereas, hundreds of political and religious prisoners are in jail and reports of beatings, electrical shock and torture in Vietnam are commonplace; and

Whereas, there are 2000 culture and information activities that are prohibited in Vietnam severely restricting freedom of speech; and domestic media is censored and foreign radio station are blocked; and

Whereas prominent journalists such as Nguyen Vu Binh and Pham Hung Sun have been jailed for years; and

Whereas the Vietnamese government censors the internet blocking politically sensitive website, monitoring emails and requiring internet cafe owners to monitor their clients; and

Whereas, the Vietnamese American community convened at Kiener Plaza on April 29, 2007, to protest the oppressive government in Vietnam and ask for support of people everywhere who are committed to the human rights; and

Whereas, the Board of Aldermen recognize the need to support our Vietnamese American population and therefore urge the Congress of the United States and President George Bush place the Republic of Vietnam on the Most Concerned Nation list; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to send a copy of this resolution to our representatives in the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives and to President George Bush, affirming support of our Vietnamese American constituents and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this the 11th Day of May, 2007 by:

Honorable Fred Wessels, Alderman 13th Ward

Adopted this the 11th day of May, 2007, as attested by:

Donna A. Booker
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen